

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing includes new Fig. 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application; Claims 21-23 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 11 and 18 are amended; Claim 4 is canceled; the specification is amended; Fig. 13 is added; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that Claims 13 and 16 include allowable subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully assert that in view of the above amendments and following remarks, all Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the Title of the specification was objected to; Claims 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,408,039 to Snyder; Claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,038,840 to Hall; Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,488,901 to Armstrong in view of Hall; Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hall in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,960 to Pilling; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Snyder; and Claims 13 and 16 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, by this Amendment, new Fig. 13 is added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the title is amended, the continuing data is provided on the first line of the specification, and disclosure with respect to new Fig.

13 is added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 11 and 18 are amended by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest that a surface of the adapter support member contacting the adapter has a projected portion and a recessed portion, as claimed in Claim 1.

Instead, Snyder discloses a plate a having several elastic fingers b upstanding therefrom in a frusto-conical relation. Element c is an enlarged base for a pedestal d longer than the fingers b and of a diameter similar to the inside diameter of the tube in which the ring is to be inserted. As such, plate a is merely a square plate having a circular region in the middle in the area that contacts the fingers b. As best shown in Figure 1, the circular area is formed in the center of the plate a and is the only area that contacts the fingers b.

Accordingly, Snyder does not teach or suggest the features recited in independent Claim 1.

Again, Claim 1 recites that a surface of the adapter support member contacting the adapter has a projected portion and a recessed portion. As discussed above, Snyder merely discloses a hole cut out of the middle of plate a. There is no teaching or suggestion for recessed or projected portions in the area of the adapter support member contacting the adapter.

The remaining applied art does not make up for the deficiencies of Snyder discussed above. For example, Hall discloses a tool that includes primarily a circular ring or base 6 to which are affixed a plurality of fingers 7 that form a unit over which the grip in the form of

an elastic tube, is applied. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for a projected and a recessed portion at a surface of the adapter support member contacting the adapter.

The present invention, as set forth in the claims, can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific examples, the surface of the slanted portion 41 of member C as best shown in figure 4b, has a projected portion and a recessed portion. The slanted portion 41 preferably has a ridge and a groove. When the slanted portion 41 has such a surface, member A can be supported by members B and C while being strongly pressed to member C by member B. Therefore, the occurrence of problems in that the stretch label attaching device is separated into members A, B, and C, can be reduced or prevented.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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